

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 01172 161308Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 129392

O 161217Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2513

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAMA 1172

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PFOR, MASS, JO, US, BA

SUBJECT : TALK WITH KING HUSSAIN/BAHRAIN ARMS PURCHASE

REFERENCE : AMMAN 6929

1. APPRECIATE AND CONCUR FULLY IN AMBASSADOR PICKERING'S RESPONSE TO KING HUSSEIN'S QUERY RE USG WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE BAHRAIN HEAVY LIFT HELICOPTERS AD PERHAPS EVENTUALLY GUNSHIPS. ASSUMING SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT DESIRED CAN BE EVALUATED PROFESSIONALLY AS DEFENSIVE IN NATURE, OUR MAKING IT AVAILABLE TO BAHRAIN WOULD SEEM CONSISTENT WITH GULF ARMS POLICY. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE HELICOPTER TRAINING FOR BDF OFFICERS AFTER THEY HAVE COMPLETED TRAINING IN JORDAN.

2. IN PROVIDING GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO KING HUSSEIN, REQUEST DEPARTMENT PAY PARTICULAR NOTE TO TWO ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION. ONE IS IMPORTANCE, AS AMBASSADOR PICKERING STRESSED, OF INSISTING ON DIRECT AND FORMAL GOB REQUEST FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, BAHRAINI CROWN PRINCE'S ENTHUSIASM FOR WEAPONRY TENDS TO EXCEED THE LIMITS OF WHAT HIS FATHER THE AMIR AND THE GOVERNMENT INTEND FOR BAHRAIN TO PURCHASE. THIS RECURRENT PROBLEM IS COMPLICATED IN THIS INSTANCE BY JURISDICTIONAL QUESTION OF WHETHER BDF, WHICH IS UNDER CROWN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANAMA 01172 161308Z

PRINCE'S COMMAND, OR BAHRAINI POLICE WILL BE CHARGED WITH

PARTICULAR INTERNAL SECURITY MISSIONS. POLICE FORCE, UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF INTERIOR MINISTER, ALREADY HAS A LIMITED HELICOPTER CAPABILITY AND IS EXPANDING IT.

3. SECOND QUESTION EXTENT TO WHICH WE SHOULD BE SUPPLYING FMS CREDITS TO BAHRAIN, PARTICULARLY FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT BE WILLING TO FINANCE. AS NOTED REFTEL, CROWN PRINCE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SAUDIS FOR SOME TIME ABOUT FINANCING FOR UPGRADING OF BAHRAIN'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE HEARD THAT SAUDIS HAVE INDICATED DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL BUT THEY HAVE RAISED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER CERTAIN BDF EQUIPMENT DESIRES ARE APPROPRIATE TO BAHRAIN'S REAL DEFENSE NEEDS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, GOB IS PRESENTLY EMBARKING ON INTENSIFIED EFFORT TO DEAL WITH CERTAIN PRESSING SOCIAL/ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, MOST NOTABLY HOUSING. SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS IS MORE LIKELY TO ASSURE BAHRAIN'S INTERNAL STABILITY THAN IS A CRASH PROGRAM OF ACQUIRING MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IN ANY EVENT, IT APPEARS GOB OUTLAYS FOR THESE PROGRAMS WILL EXCEED ITS FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THAT BAHRAIN INTENDS TO TURN TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR SUBSTANTIAL HELP. THIS SUGGESTS IMPORTANCE OF OUR CONSIDERING CAREFULLY BAHRAIN'S ABILITY TO PAY WHEN RESPONDING TO EQUIPMENT REQUESTS AND OF CONSIDERING CONSULTING WITH SAUDIS PRIOR TO AGREEING TO FINANCE GOB ACQUISITION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

TWINAM

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAMA01172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750359-0160
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751047/aaaabqcb.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 AMMAN 6929
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : TALK WITH KING HUSSAIN/BAHRAIN ARMS PURCHASE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PINS, JO, US, BA, (HUSSAIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006